I. Vendor and Farmer Management

(Please indicate) State Agency: New Hampshire for FY: 2023

Vendor and farmer/farmers' market management includes all those activities associated with selecting, authorizing, training, monitoring, and investigating the State agency's vendor and farmer/farmers' market population for the purpose of reducing fraud and abuse in the WIC Program food delivery system.

During a disaster or public health emergency, the State agency may request to implement existing WIC regulatory and programmatic flexibilities to support the continuation of Program benefits and services. State agencies should consider the overarching authority, i.e., Stafford Act or provision(s) authorized by Congress, before developing a policy and procedure. The State agency must provide a detailed description of how it plans to operationalize the flexibility through their procedure manual where applicable. Please note the State Plan Guidance is not intended to capture a description of waivers authorized by Congress with separate reporting requirements i.e., the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (PL 116-127).

More recently, Executive Order (EO) 13988, "Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation." was issued to all Federal Agencies. The EO set out policies that all persons are entitled to dignity, respect, and equal treatment under the law, no matter their gender identity or sexual orientation. The EO does not usurp section 17 of 42 U.S.C, as amended or applicable regulations. However, where appropriate, State agencies may update their policies and procedures to align with the contents of the EO.

- A. <u>Vendor Selection and Authorization</u> <u>7 CFR 246.4(a)(14)(i)</u>, <u>(ii)</u>, <u>and (iii)</u>: identify the types of food delivery systems used in the State agency's jurisdiction. Describe, if used, the State agency's limiting criteria. Describe the State agency's selection criteria and attach a sample vendor agreement. Describe, if applicable, the supervision and instruction the State agency provides to local agencies to which vendor agreement signing has been delegated.
- **B.** <u>Vendor Training</u> <u>7 CFR 246.4(a)(14)(xii)</u>: describe State and local agency procedures for training WIC Program vendors and farmers/farmers' markets and for documenting all relevant training.
- C. <u>High-Risk Vendor Identification Systems</u> <u>7 CFR 246.12(j)(3)</u>: describe the policies and procedures for identifying and monitoring high-risk vendors through the use of vendor peer groups, food instrument and cash-value voucher (CVV)/ cash value benefit (CVB) redemption screening, analysis of overcharging and other violations, the use of price lists, tracking complaints, or other means. *This section may be submitted separately because it is no longer a State Plan requirement but must still be approved by FNS*.
- D. <u>Routine Monitoring</u> <u>7 CFR 246.4(a)(14)(iv)</u>: describe the criteria used to select vendors for routine monitoring as well as the methods and scope of on-site routine monitoring activities. Include any relevant information about the State agency's plans for improvement in the coming year.
- E. <u>Compliance Investigations</u> <u>7 CFR 246.4(a)(14)(iv)</u>: describe the investigative practices and procedures used to conduct both compliance buys and inventory audits for the purpose of detecting, tracking, and documenting vendor noncompliance with program requirements.
- F. <u>Administrative Review of State Agency Actions</u> <u>7 CFR 246.4(a)(14)(iii)</u>, and <u>(a)(18)</u>: describe the procedures for conducting both full and abbreviated administrative reviews.
- G. <u>Coordination with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)</u> <u>7 CFR 246.4(a)(14)(ii)</u>, <u>(a)(14)(iv)</u> and <u>246.12(h)(3)(xxvi)</u>: describe the methods and procedures used to coordinate the monitoring and sharing of information on vendors who participate in both the WIC Program and SNAP.
- H. <u>Staff Training on Vendor Management</u> <u>7 CFR 246.4(a)(14)(iii)</u>, <u>(a)(14)(iv)</u>, <u>and (a)(14)(xii)</u>: describe the distribution of responsibilities and activities of those individuals at both the State and local levels who are involved in vendor management activities. If applicable, describe the supervision and instruction the State agency provides to

local agencies to which vendor management activities have been delegated.

- I. <u>Participant Access</u> <u>7 CFR 246.4(a)(15); 246.12(b)</u>, (g)(1), (g)(8): provide information about the State agency's definition of participant access.
- J. <u>Farmer/Farmers' Market Authorization</u> <u>7 CFR 246.4(a)(14)(iii)</u>, <u>(a)(14)(xii)</u>, <u>and 246.12(v)</u>: if the State agency authorizes farmers' markets to accept CVVs/CVBs, describe the authorization process.
- K. <u>Farmer/Farmers' Market Agreements</u> <u>7 CFR 246.4(a)(14)(iii)</u>, <u>(a)(14)(xii)</u>, <u>and 246.12(v)</u>: if the State agency authorizes farmers/farmers' markets to accept CVVs/CVBs, describe the State agency's agreement with the farmers/ farmers' markets and attach a sample farmer/farmers' market agreement.
- L. <u>Farmer/Farmers' Market Training</u> <u>7 CFR 246.4(a)(14)(iii)</u>, <u>(a)(14)(xii)</u>, <u>and 246.12(v)</u>: if the State agency authorizes farmers/farmers' markets to accept CVVs/CVBs, describe the training provided to the authorized farmers/ farmers markets.
- M. <u>Farmer/Farmers' Market Monitoring</u> <u>7 CFR 246.4(a)(14)(iii)</u>, (a)(14)(xii), (a)(14)(v), and <u>246.12(v)</u>: if the State agency authorizes farmers/farmers' markets to accept CVVs/CVBs, describe the criteria used for selecting farmers/farmers markets for routine monitoring as well as the method(s) and scope of on-site monitoring of the farmers/farmers markets.
- N. <u>Farmer/Farmers' Market Sanctions, Claims, and Appeals</u> <u>7 CFR 246.4(a)(14)(iii)</u> (a)(14)(v), (a)(14)(xii), and <u>246.12(v)</u>: if the State agency authorizes farmers/farmers' markets to accept CVVs/CVBs, describe the farmer/farmers' market sanctions, claims, and appeals and attach a copy of the farmer/farmers' market sanction schedule (which should be included in the farmer/farmers' market agreement as well).

A. Vendor Selection and Authorization

1	. Number and Distribution of Authorized Vendors
а	. Does the State agency use limiting criteria to limit the number of vendors it authorizes?
	□Yes ⊠No
b	. If yes, check and specify the type(s) of criteria used (e.g., vendor/participant ratio of 1/100 per county):
	☐ Vendor/participant ratio (specify):
	☐ Vendors/local agency or clinic ratio (specify):
	☐ Vendors/local service area or county ratio (specify):
	☐ Vendors/geographic area (e.g., number per mile, city block, zip code) (specify):
	☐ Vendor/State agency staff ratio (specify):
	☐ Statewide cap on the number of vendors (specify):
	☐ Other (specify):
	ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation):
2	. Vendor Application Periods
а	. The State agency considers applications; check all that apply:
	⊠ On an on-going basis
	☐ Annually in (month) for a new agreement begins (month:)
	☐ Every two years (specify month):
	☐ Every three years (specify month):
	☐ Any time there is a participant access needed
	☐ The State agency is currently under a:
	☐ Federal Moratorium (specify time frame):
	\square State agency-imposed deferral of application processing (specify time frame and conditions):
	☐ Other (specify):
	ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation):
3.	Vendor Selection and Authorization
a.	The vendor selection criteria used to select vendors for program authorization include:
	Required criteria:
	⊠ EBT capable as defined in <u>7 CFR 246.12(aa)(4)(ii)</u>
	☑ A competitive price criterion based on:
	☑ A State agency standard drawn from a price survey
	\square A standard drawn from another source (specify):
	☐ Other (specify):
	☑ A minimum variety and quantity of supplemental foods criterion that is:
	⊠ Statewide
	☐ Peer group specific

	☑ A requirement to obtain infant formula only from sources included in the State agency's list of State licensed infant formula wholesalers, distributors, and retailers and manufacturers registered with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration
	□ A business integrity criterion that includes:
	☑ No history, during the past six years, among the vendor's owners, officers, or managers of criminal convictions
	or civil judgments for activities listed in 7 CFR 246.12(g)(3)(ii)
	☐ No history of other business-related criminal convictions or civil judgments
	☐ Other (specify):
	□ Lack of a current SNAP disqualification or civil money penalty for hardship per 7 CFR 246.12(g)(3)(iii)
	Optional criteria:
	☑ A requirement to stock a full range of foods in addition to WIC supplemental foods
	☐ A location necessary to ensure adequate participant access
	□ Redemption of a minimum number/volume of food instruments and CVVs/CVBs
	Satisfactory compliance with previous vendor agreement
	☐ Certification by an approved State or local health department
	□ Proof of authorization as a SNAP retailer, including SNAP authorization number
	days a week.
	☐ Lack of previous WIC sanctions
	☐ Other criteria (specify):
	☐ Not applicable (explain):
b.	Explain how the State agency develops and uses the competitive price criteria identified in item 3a to select vendors for authorization. Vendor prices are compared to other vendor in their peer group at time of application and then every 6 months. If their prices seem high, vendors are asked to lower and are also reduced during redemption to the Not To Exceed (NTE) price. (1) Does the State agency exempt from competitive price criteria pharmacies that provide only exempt infant formula or WIC-eligible medical foods to participants?
	☐ Yes ☐ No
	 (2) Did the State agency exempt non-profit WIC vendors (other than health or human services agencies that provide food under contract with the State agency) from competitive price criteria? ☐ Yes ☒ No
c.	When does the State agency assess vendors for above-50-percent status?
	☐ At authorization
	☐ 6 months after authorization
	□ Annually □ Annually
	☐ Other (specify):
C	I. How does the State agency assess vendors for above-50-percent status? Check all that apply:
	☑ Use the A50 status determination report in the Food Delivery Portal (e.g., WIC-6 in The Integrity Profile)
	☐ Collect food sales data documentation from the vendor

☐ Collect food sales data d☐ Other (specify):	ocumentation from another agency (specify): SNAP
e. Does the State agency au WIC transactions (i.e., abo	thorize vendors that derive more than 50 percent of their annual food sales from ove-50-percent vendors)?
☐ Yes ⊠ No	If "No," please proceed to item 3f. If "Yes," please respond to the following:
(1) How many above-50-pe just WIC-only vendors)	rcent vendors are currently authorized? (include all above-50-percent vendors, not
(2) Does the State agency	allow above-50-percent vendors to provide incentive items?
☐ Yes ⊠ No	If "No," please proceed to item 3f. If "Yes," please respond to the following:
Describe the incentive applist the Appendix citation	proval process or attach a copy of the relevant application form. Description (or nere):
(3) Does the State agency ☐ Yes; please provide I	provide above-50-percent vendors with a list of pre-approved incentive items?
(4) Does the State agency ☐ Yes; please provide I	provide above-50-percent vendors with a list of prohibited incentive items?
by offering them incentive	ure vendors (regular and above-50-percent) do not treat WIC participants differently items that are not offered to non-WIC customers? (7 CFR 246.12(h)(3) (iii) and WIC 3 Vendor Management: Incentive Items, Vendor Discounts and Coupons)
⊠ Yes; please explain:	☐ No; please explain:
Vendors are not allowed to	offer incentive items solely to WIC participants in an effort to increase their WIC sales.
g. Pre-authorization visits are	e conducted to verify information received during the application process:
by SA by LA	by Other
	For vendors at initial authorization
	For all vendors at authorization/reauthorization ify the status of vendor applicants' SNAP retailer authorization (e.g., via (Food ore Tracking and Redemption System (STAR)?
ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Vendo	r Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation):

4. Vendor Peer Groups

If the State agency does not have a vendor peer group system, please attach a copy of the most recent exemption request and approval letters and proceed to item 4e.

а	. Are vendors a	ssigned to peer groups	for selection/authorization?
	⊠ Yes	□ No	
b.	Are vendors as	ssigned to peer groups	for reimbursement purposes?
	⊠ Yes	□ No	
c.	Peer groups a	re based on the followin	ng (check all that apply):
	•	sales volume eash registers age of store e store ency service areas nty, or regional	 □ Zip codes □ Unique economic location (e.g., rural island, single metro area)
d.	stores, conver	nience stores, etc.) that t more than 18 peer grou	cribe the peer groupings (e.g., supermarkets, medium and small grocery the State agency plans to use during the upcoming fiscal year. For State ps, please attach a chart containing this Peer Group Description and list
	Description of F	Peer Group System	
e.	CFR 246.12(g) ☐ Yes; date FN	(4)(v))? NS approved exemption:	al for an exemption from the vendor peer group system requirement (7
	• •		n was based on the latest available data for the current fiscal year (which), and the State agency:
	☐ Does not ha	ave any above-50-percent	t vendors; data source:
		-50-percent vendors source:	percent of the total annual WIC redemptions to date;
	system for	comparing the prices of	vendor peer group system, describe the State agency's alternative finew vendor applicants and currently authorized vendors and selecting a vendors that offer the program the most competitive prices.

A. Vendor Selection and Authorization

DESCRIPTION OF VENDOR PEER GROUP SYSTEM

	Vendor Peer Groups				
Number of Vendors in Peer Group				Comparable	
Peer Group No. (1)	Description (e.g., supermarkets, chain stores, pharmacies) (2)	Regular Vendors (3)	Above-50% Vendors (4)	Total (5)	Vendors Peer Group Number (6)
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					

13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			

Instructions:

- Column 1 Assign a sequential number to each peer group.
- Column 2 Describe the vendors in the peer group; include all factors and definitions checked in question 4c. (e.g., urban = counties with >100,000 residents OR suburban = counties with >10,000 residents OR rural = counties with <10,000 residents)
- Column 3 Insert the number of authorized vendors that are regular vendors.
- Column 4 If the State agency authorizes above-50-percent vendors, insert the number of above-50-percent vendors currently authorized.
- Column 5 Insert the total number of authorized vendors. This number should be the sum of columns 3 and 4, since the State agency must identify each vendor as being either a regular vendor or an above-50-percent vendor.
- Column 6 For each peer group that contains above-50-percent vendors, insert the number of the peer group that contains comparable regular vendors. The comparable vendor peer group is the peer group that the State agency uses to derive the competitive price criteria and maximum reimbursement levels that it applies to the above-50-percent vendors. If above-50-percent vendors are placed in a peer group with regular vendors, then the number in column 1 should be the same as that in column 6. If above-50-percent vendors are in separate peer groups, then the number in column 1 will be different from that in column 6.

f.	At least every three years the State agency must assess the effectiveness of its peer group system and competitive price criteria to enhance system performance (7 CFR 246.12(g)(4)(ii)(C)).
	The State agency makes this assessment—
	\square Annually \square Biennially \boxtimes Every three years
	☐ Other (please specify): See description of peer grouping Attachment.
	What procedures does the State agency have in place to assess the effectiveness of its peer group system and competitive price criteria to enhance system performance? Every 6 months we analyze vendor prices by peer group and subcategory. This quickly shows us if any vendor is charging outside the normal for their assigned peer group.
	Provide date of most recent FNS approval:
5.	Semiannual Shelf Price Collection
a.	Has the State agency received approval for an exemption from the shelf price collection requirement under 7 CFR 246.12(g)(4)(ii)(B):
	☐ Yes; date FNS approved exemption: ☐ No
	If yes, please attach a copy of the most recent exemption request and approval letter(s).
6.	Vendor Agreements
a.	The following reflect the State agency's vendor agreement practices; check all that apply:
	☑ All vendors have a written agreement with the State agency
	☑ A standard vendor agreement is used statewide
	☐ Vendor agreements are subject to the State's procurement procedures
	☐ Vendor agreements/handbooks are subject to the State's Administrative Procedures Act
	☑ A nonstandard vendor agreement is used for:
	☐ Military commissaries
	\square Pharmacies that only provide exempt infant formula and/or WIC-eligible medical foods
	☑ All pharmacies
	☐ Mobile stores
	☐ Other (specify):
	All vendors are provided at least 15 days advance written notice of the expiration of the vendor agreement
	☐ Chain stores sign a master agreement that includes multiple locations
	☐ Chain stores sign an agreement for each store location
	 □ All authorized WIC vendors are compliant with the regulatory split tender requirement at <u>246.12(f)(4)</u> □ Other (specify):
b.	In addition to the requirements in <u>7 CFR 246.12(h)(3)-(h)(6)</u> , the vendor agreement includes:
	□ Periodic submission of vendor price lists. If so, specify frequency: Every 6 months
	☐ Maintenance of records in addition to the required inventory records. If so, specify types of records:
	☐ Submission of food instruments and CVVs/CVBs within a shorter timeframe than required by program regulations. If

	so, specify timeframe:
	☐ Redemption of a minimum number/volume of food instruments and CVVs/CVBs
	☐ Minimum hours of operation
	☐ Other (specify all):
C.	The State agency delegates the signing of vendor agreements to its local agencies: \square Yes \bowtie No
	If yes, provide a description of the supervision and instruction provided to local agencies to ensure the uniformity and quality of this activity.
PI	ease attach a copy of the Vendor Agreement or provide the appropriate Procedure Manual reference below.
ΑI	DDITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation): 2022 Vendor
<u>Aç</u>	greement.
B.	Vendor Training
1.	Vendor Training – General
a.	Annual vendor training covers the following content (check all that apply):
	□ Purpose of the WIC Program
	Supplemental foods authorized by the State agency
	☑ Minimum varieties and quantities of supplemental foods that must be stocked
	Obtaining infant formula only from sources included in the State agency's list of State licensed infant formula wholesalers, distributors, and retailers, and manufacturers registered with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration
	☑ Procedures for obtaining prior State agency approval to provide incentive items to WIC participants
	☑ Procedures for transacting and redeeming food instruments and cash - value vouchers
	□ Changes in program requirements since the last training
	□ Recordkeeping requirements
	□ Replacement food instruments and cash-value vouchers
	☑ Participant complaints
	□ Reauthorization
	⊠ Reporting changes of ownership, location, or cessation of operations
	☑ Procedures for appeal/administrative review
	□ Training employees □ Training e
	☐ Other (specify):
	If any topics listed above are not included in the annual vendor training, explain why.

b.	following materia	or representatives receive training on the following occasions and/or through the als (check all that apply): e) meetings/conferences
	○ Off-site meeting	gs/conferences
	□ During routine	monitoring visits (e.g., educational buys)
		zed technical assistance is requested
		als (e.g., newsletters)
	☐ Audio or video	recording
		e, video conference, or webinars
	☐ Vendor hotline	
	⊠ State or local a	gency website
	☐ Other (specify)	
c.	Vendors or vend	or representatives receive interactive training as follows (check all applicable responses):
		tial authorization
		very three years
	☐ Annually or mo	ore frequently than once every three years
d.	The following me	ethod(s) are used to evaluate the effectiveness of vendor training (check all that apply):
	☐ Evaluation form	ns provided with training materials
		or post-tests regarding vendor policies, procedures, and practices
	☐ Statistical indic	cators, such as a reduction in food instrument/cash-value voucher/cash-value benefit errors
	☐ Educational bu	ys
	☐ Record review	S
		ack from vendors and/or participants
		ry councils
	☐ None	
	☐ Other (specify)	
ΑD	DITIONAL DETAIL	: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation):
2.	Delegation of Ver	ndor Training
a.	The State agency	delegates its vendor training to:
	☐ Local agencies	
	☐ A contractor; sp	pecify:
	☐ A vendor assoc	ciation/representative; specify:
		The State trains the vendors personnel who then trains store employees.
	☐ None (the State	agency conducts all vendor training)
b.	Indicate the frequency	uency with which the State agency performed the following activities during the past fiscal
	Times/ FY	Activity
	4/2021 4/2021	Provided comprehensive training materials to delegated trainers Provided instruction on vendor training techniques to delegated trainers

		•	ormance of delegated trainers to ensure the uniformity and quality of vendor training
		Not applicable	
		Other (specify):	
		AIL: Vendor Manag Annual and every 3	gement Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation): The State does the Year training.
3.	Documents for	and Documentation	on of Vendor Training
a.		cy or the entity to annual vendor tra	which it delegates vendor training documents the content of and vendor aining:
	⊠ Yes	□ No	
b.			es are required to sign an acknowledgment of training when they have received heck all that apply):
	☑ Interactive to	raining	☐ Annual training
	☐ Educational	buys	
	☐ Remedial tra	aining	☐ Other (specify):
c.	The State agen	cy produces a Vei	ndor Handbook:
	⊠ Yes	□ No	
	If yes, provide the Manual Attachm		or Handbook or the citation: WIC Program Store Handbook Policy & Procedure
d.	The State agen	cy provides online	e or web-based training:
	□ Yes	⊠ No	
	If yes, provide th	ne link to the trainin	·g:
4 D.F	OITIONAL DETAIL		amont Annough and/on Duo on done Manual (Ottotion)
ADL	DITIONAL DETAI	L: vendor Manage	ement Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation):
C.	High-Risk Iden	tification Systen	ns
١.	Vendor Compla	aints	
a.	The State agen	cy has a formal sy	ystem for receiving complaints about vendors:
	☐ No; please €	explain:	
		aints are received th	hrough the following:
	⋈ A toll-free	number handled b	y State agency staff
		ard complaint form	which the complainant sends to:
	State	agency	
	⊠ Loca	l agency or clinic	
	☐ Online sys	stem; include link he	ere:
	☐ Other (spe	ecify):	
э.	The State agen	cy has a formal s	ystem for receiving complaints from vendors:
	☐ No; please €	explain:	
		aints are received th	nrough the following:

	☑ A toll-free number handled by State agency staff
	\square A standard complaint form which the complainant sends to:
	State agency ■ State agency ■ ■ The state agency ■
	☐ Local agency or clinic
	☐ Online system; include link here:
	☐ Other (specify):
c.	The State agency logs and responds to all complaints:
	☐ No; please explain:
ΑD	DITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation):
2.	Identifying High-Risk Vendors
a.	What criteria does the State agency use to identify high-risk vendors: (* = mandatory)
	☐ High-mean value* ☐ Other (specify all):
	□ New vendor
b.	Identify the frequency for generating high-risk vendor reports:
	☐ Monthly ☐ Annually
	☐ Quarterly ☐ No set schedule
	☐ Semiannually ☐ Other (specify):
c.	Identify the type(s) of food instruments/cash-value vouchers/cash-value benefits used in the high-risk vendo analysis. (Check all that apply):
	☑ A full monthly food package for a:
	☐ Woman ☐ Infant ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify):
	☐ CVVs/CVBs
	☑ Other (specify): All food packages and items are used in the high risk reports.
d.	To perform the high-risk vendor analysis, the State agency's system aggregates a vendor's redemptions over the following time period:
	□ 1 month □ 2 months □ 3 months □ 4 months □ 5 months □ 6 months
	☐ Other (specify):
e.	Vendor redemption patterns are generally compared to:
	 □ Applicable peer group patterns ☑ All vendors' patterns statewide □ Other (specify):
_	

Provide additional information detailing how the State agency conducts the high-risk vendor analysis and how the State agency ranks and selects vendors for compliance and/or monitoring activity when more than 5% of authorized vendors are high risk.

High Risk Vendor Identification

D. Routine Monitoring

1. Routine Monitoring Visits

a.	Routine monitoring visits are conducted by:
	State agency staff
	☐ Local agency staff
	☐ Other (specify):
b.	Identify the activities performed during a routine monitoring visit; check all that apply:
	□ Check the vendor's inventory of supplemental foods and/or inventory records to determine if the vendor meets the State agency's requirements for the minimum variety and quantity of supplemental foods.
	☐ Check the vendor's inventory of non-supplemental foods and/or inventory records to provide information on whether the vendor is an above-50-percent vendor.
	☐ Determine whether the vendor accepts forms of payment other than WIC food instruments, such as cash, personal checks, and credit cards, to provide information on whether the vendor is an above-50-percent vendor.
	☑ Check the vendor's invoices of infant formula to ensure that the infant formula is obtained only from the State agency's list of infant formula manufacturers registered with the Food and Drug Administration, and infant formula wholesalers, distributors, and retailers licensed under State law.
	\Box If the vendor is an above-50-percent vendor, check its stock of incentive items to ensure that such items have been approved by the State agency.
	☑ Obtain the vendor's shelf prices and/or validate the vendor's price list
	\square Review food instruments or receipts in the vendor's possession for vendor violations
	☐ Compare shelf prices to prices that appear on the register to test for vendor overcharges
	⊠ Review use of shelf tags and signage
	⊠ Review expiration dates on supplemental foods
	\square Compare prices of supplemental foods with similar items not approved as supplemental
	☑ Observe WIC transactions that occur
	$oximes$ Verify that the vendor has appropriate terminals deployed in the required number of lanes per $\underline{\text{7 CFR 246.12(z)(2)}}$
	☑ Conduct an educational buy
	☐ Interview manager and/or employees
	⊠ Review employee training procedures
	☐ Conduct annual vendor training or provide vendor with annual training materials
	☐ Examine the sanitary conditions of the store
	☑ Ensure that vendor is compliant with the split tender requirement
	☐ Other (specify all):
c.	Generally, routine monitoring visits are conducted on each vendor (check all that apply):
	\square Annually \square Twice a year \boxtimes As needed (specify) \square Other (specify)
d.	The following procedures are used in determining whether a vendor is selected for a routine monitoring visit (check all that apply):
	☐ Random selection ☐ Complaints

	☐ Periodic/scheduled training ☐ Other (specify): <u>Violations, complaints, and random when needed.</u>
	☐ Periodic/scheduled review
	ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation):
Ε.	Compliance Investigations
1.	Investigative Practices
a.	 The State agency conducts (check all that apply): \[Compliance buys (a covert, on-site investigation in which a representative of the Program poses as a participant, parent, or caretaker of an infant or child participant, or proxy; transacts one or more food instruments or CVVs/ CVBs; and does not reveal during the visit that he or she is a Program representative.) \[\text{Inventory audits (the examination of food invoices or other proofs of purchase to determine whether a vendor has purchased sufficient quantities of supplemental foods to provide participants the quantities specified on food instruments redeemed by the vendor during a given period of time.)
b.	The following factors are used to determine which vendors are selected for a compliance investigation (check all that apply):
	 ✓ Vendor is identified by the high-risk vendor identification criteria ✓ Random selection ☐ Geographical considerations ✓ Volume of WIC redemptions ✓ Participant complaints ☐ Other (specify):
C.	The State agency uses standard procedures for conducting and documenting compliance buys and inventory audits:
	☑ Yes If yes, please provide the guidelines in the Vendor Management Appendix or cite to the Procedure Manual reference: Compliance Buy Procedures
	□ No; specify:
d.	The results of compliance investigations are used to assess the effectiveness of the State agency's high-risk vendor identification criteria:
	□ Yes ⊠ No
	If yes, check the items below that describe how the results of compliance investigations are used to assess the effectiveness of high-risk vendor identification criteria:
	 □ The State agency compares data on the prevalence of vendor violations detected among high-risk versus non- high-risk vendors. □ The State agency discards a high-risk vendor identification criterion if compliance investigations of high-risk vendors identified by the criterion result in no vendor violations after months □ Investigative procedures and training are reevaluated if compliance investigations of high-risk vendors result in the detection of no vendor violations. □ Other (specify):

ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation):

2.	Compliance Buys
a.	The State agency conducts the following types of compliance buys:
	 □ Trafficking buys (exchanging food instruments for cash) ☑ Safe buys (transacting food instruments to see if the vendor will overcharge) ☑ Short buys (transacting food instruments for less food items than those available to see if the vendor will charge for food items not received) □ Major substitution buys (exchanging food instruments for non-food items) ☑ Minor substitution buys (exchanging food instruments for unauthorized food items) □ Other (specify):
b.	Does the State agency tailor compliance buys to vendors' risk type?
	⊠ Yes; explain: We target to high risk vendors.
	□ No; explain:
c.	Compliance buys are usually conducted by:
	 □ WIC State agency staff □ WIC local agency staff □ State investigators ⋈ Investigators retained on a contract basis (e.g., Pinkerton, Wells Fargo) □ Interns, neighborhood residents, or program participants employed by WIC □ Another WIC State agency □ Other (specify):
d.	Who is responsible for ensuring the proper execution of and follow-up on compliance buys?
	 ☑ WIC State agency vendor manager ☐ WIC local agency manager ☐ State investigators ☐ Contractor ☐ Another WIC State agency ☐ Other (specify):
e.	If no vendor violations are detected, how many compliance buys does the State agency conduct before closing a compliance investigation?
	⊠ Two □ Other (specify):
f.	If the State agency conducts a standard number of compliance buys per compliance investigation, what is the basis for the prescribed number of buys?
	 □ State law or regulation □ State agency policy or procedure □ Level of evidence necessary to impose vendor sanctions □ Legal counsel's advice □ Other (specify):
g.	Is the vendor provided written notification of a violation requiring a pattern of violations in order to sanction the vendor, prior to documenting another violation of the same kind, unless the State agency determines that such notice would compromise the investigation and documents this in the vendor's file?
	⊠ Yes □ No

If no, is the determination that the written notification would compromise the investigation documented in the

	vendor's file? ☐ Yes; if a standard form is used, please attach and cite below.
	☐ No; please explain:
h.	Does the State agency have a clear, actionable definition of "pattern of violations" approved by its General Counsel/Administrative Officer?
ΑD	DITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation):
3.	Estimate the cost for conducting compliance buys, excluding expenses related to the vendor appeals/ administrative review process:
	\$ Cost per compliance buy
	☑ Unknown☐ Not applicable
ΑD	DITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual:
4.	Inventory Audits (If inventory audits are not performed, go to Question 5)
a.	The following factors are used to determine which vendors selected for compliance investigations will receive inventory audits rather than/or in addition to compliance buys:
	 ☑ Vendor has highest risk based on State agency's high-risk identification criteria ☑ Suspicion of vendor exchanging cash for food instruments (trafficking) ☑ Inconclusive compliance buy results ☑ Complaints ☐ Other (specify):
b.	The State agency conducts the following types of inventory audits: ☐ On-site inventory audits ☐ State agency inventory audits (vendor sends records to State agency) ☐ Local agency inventory audits (vendor sends records to local agency) ☐ Other (specify):
C.	Inventory audits are conducted by (check all that apply):
	 ☑WIC State agency staff ☐ WIC local agency staff ☐ State investigators ☐ Investigators retained on a contract basis (e.g., Pinkerton's, Wells Fargo) ☐ Other (specify):
d.	Identify the amount of, or period of time covered by, the receipts that are examined during an inventory audit
	Period of time is normally around 30 days and takes into account availability of staff to return to the vendor.
AD	DITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation):
5.	Compliance Buy/Inventory Audit Tracking System(s)
a.	The State agency has a means of recording and tracking staff person hours devoted to investigation activities:
	☐ Yes; please describe:
	⊠ No

b.		jency has an auto pliance investiga		stem for tracking investigations that monitors the progress and status
	☐ Yes; pleas	se describe:		
	⊠ No			
ΑC	DITIONAL DE	ETAIL: Vendor Ma	ınagement	Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation):
F	Administrat	tive Review of S	State Ager	ncy Actions
		ninistrative Revie	_	icy Actions
٦	The State age		following	types of administrative reviews of vendor appeals for the adverse
	Informal Desk Reviews	Abbreviated Admin Reviews	Full Admin. Reviews	
			\boxtimes	Denial due to competitive price selection criterion
			\boxtimes	Denial due to minimum stocking selection criterion
		\boxtimes		Denial due to business integrity or current SNAP DQ or CMP
		\boxtimes		Denial based on limiting criteria
		\boxtimes		Denial due to State agency selection criteria
		\boxtimes		Denial due to application outside timeframe
	\boxtimes			Application of above-50-percent criteria
			\boxtimes	DQ for WIC violations
			\boxtimes	DQ for SNAP CMP
			\boxtimes	Other WIC sanctions, e.g., fine or CMP
			\boxtimes	Denial based on circumvention of sanction
		\boxtimes		Application of peer group criteria
		\boxtimes		Termination due to ownership change
		\boxtimes		Termination due to location change
		\boxtimes		Termination due to ceasing operations
			\boxtimes	Termination for other causes
			\boxtimes	DQ for trafficking/illegal sales conviction
			\boxtimes	DQ/CMP due to another State agency's mandatory sanction
			\boxtimes	CMP based on SNAP DQ
		\boxtimes		Denial based on no SNAP authorization

ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation):

2. Administrative Review Procedures

a.	The State agency has a	iaw or regulation	on governing wic administrative reviews.
	⊠ Yes; please indicate: ¿	Attachment – A	dministrative Review Procedures
	□ No		
	If the State agency does State agency Adminis State agency law pert State agency health do State agency health do State agency WIC reg Other (specify):	trative Procedu aining to WIC o epartment law epartment regu	only
b.	At which level do admin	istrative reviev	vs of WIC vendor appeals take place:
	☐ WIC local agency☐ WIC State agency☒ State or Tribal health d☐ Other (specify):	epartment	
C.	Administrative reviews a	re conducted	by:
	☐ Hearing officers☐ Administrative law jud☑ Other (specify): DHHS	S Administrative	
a.	i ne following procedure	es are followed	d for administrative reviews:
	Abbreviated Admin. Reviews	Full Admin. Reviews	
			Opportunity for vendor to examine evidence prior to review
			Opportunity for vendor to reschedule review date
		\boxtimes	Opportunity for vendor to present its case
		\boxtimes	Opportunity for vendor to be represented by counsel
			Opportunity for vendor to present witnesses
		\boxtimes	Opportunity for vendor to cross-examine witnesses
			Opportunity for investigators to testify behind a screen or via other non-identifying method
			Presence of a court reporter or stenographer
			An impartial decision-maker, whose decision is based solely on whether the State agency correctly applied Federal and State statues,
			regulations, policies, and procedures
			A written decision within 90 days from request for review
			Other (specify):
e.	Check the party(ies) be	ا low who may	present the State agency case during a full administrative review:
		igned to case $ {}^{ ilde{ ilde{ ilde{D}}}}$	
	□ Legal counsel (State)	Attorney Gener	ral or General Counsel's office) \square Legal counsel (paid by WIC Program funds)

	Other (specify all)	:	
	se attach and/or re nistrative review ¡		e Additional Detail area below the location of the State agency's
ADD Proced		Vendor Mana	gement Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation): Administrative Review
G. C	oordination with	SNAP	
1. WI	C/SNAP Information	on Sharing	
	information share State agency:	ing agreemer	nt between the WIC State agency and SNAP is in effect and is maintained at
\boxtimes	Yes □ No)	
-	es, an updated lis ce:	t of authorize	d vendors is sent to the appropriate FNS SNAP Retailer Operations Division
	Once a year		
	Regularly, at interva	als of less thar	n one year (specify):
	Periodically, as cha	inges occur	
\boxtimes	Jpon request		
	Other (specify):		
b. Sta	te agency complia	ance investiga	ators coordinate their activities with their SNAP counterparts:
	Yes □ No	_	
c. Sta		ions, or proce	edures restrict the disclosure of WIC vendor and SNAP retailer information to 26(e) and (f):
\boxtimes	Yes (specify):		
	No		
Confide	TIONAL DETAIL: Ventiality Policy	endor Manag	gement Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation): PPM, Chapter 8, A
	eck below the rou	tine formal tr	aining available to State and local level staff in vendor management
Sta		Other (c	ontractor)
\boxtimes			Vendor selection and authorization
\boxtimes	\boxtimes		Vendor training
\boxtimes			Routine monitoring
\boxtimes		\boxtimes	Compliance investigations
\boxtimes			Inventory audits
\boxtimes			Corrective actions and sanctions
\boxtimes			Criminal investigations
\boxtimes			Vendor appeals/administrative reviews

	\boxtimes			Federal and/or State WIC regulations
	\boxtimes	\boxtimes	\boxtimes	Prevention of vendor fraud and abuse
	\boxtimes			WIC/SNAP information sharing and handling of confidential
				WIC vendor data
	\boxtimes			High-risk vendor identification
	\boxtimes			Vendor management information system
	☐ Not applical			
	☐ Other (spec	cify):		
2.	State agency stakeholder (with vendor re	presentatives as part of a vendor advisory council or other vendor
	☐ Monthly			
	☐ Quarterly			
	oxtimes Other freq	uency: <u>Ever</u>	y 6 months or as	needed
	□ No vendor	r advisory co	uncil	
Al	DDITIONAL DE	TAIL: Vend	or Management	Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation):
3.	Reporting ve	ndor inform	ation to the Foo	od Delivery Portal (FDP):
	. •			or information to FDP?
		•		
	☐ Manually (v☑ Upload com		•	
	☐ Upload XM		a nic	
b.				that this information is accurate: The MIS system populates the majority ered by the vendor manager. It is then cross checked with vendor files and
	<u></u>			
ΑI	DDITIONAL DE	TAIL: Vend	or Management	Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation):
ı.	Participant :	Access		
1.			agency definition	on for participant access. Include full criteria, including geography, ur response.
	Five vendors s	serving 20 or	more household	ds within a seven mile radius of the applicant store.
2.	Does the Stat	te agency as	ssess all vendor	applications not meeting selection criteria for participant access?
	⊠ Yes	□ No		
				ide a citation of the procedures used for assessing vendor applications t details so steps can be followed and criteria applied to a specific
	Attachment: Pa	articipant Acc	ess Determination	on Procedure
Al	DDITIONAL DE	ETAIL: Vend	or Managemen	t Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation):
J.	Farmer/Farr	mers' Mark	et Authorizatio	on
			Y DOES NOT A - N DO NOT AP	UTHORIZE FARMERS/FARMERS [,] MARKETS TO ACCEPT PLY.

	Does the State agency delegate any tasks related to the management of the Farmers or Farmers' Markets to inother entity?
[□ No
[☐ Yes (specify what tasks and to whom):
2.	The State agency authorizes farmers/farmers' markets to accept CVVs/CVBs based on:
[☐ Authorization by the WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)
[☐ Selection criteria established separately from FMNP
	If the State agency does not authorize farmers/farmers' markets based on FMNP authorization, the selection criteria include (describe):
4.	The State agency consider applications:
[☐ On an ongoing basis ☐ Annually ☐ Other (specify): ☐ Every three years ☐ Every two years
	DITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation): and/or FMNP State an (Citation):
_	he State agency does not authorize Farmers/Farmers' Markets, please proceed to Section N. Participant cess.
K.	Farmer/Farmers' Market Agreements
1.	Agreement periods are for: ☐ One year ☐ Two years
	☐ Three years ☐ Other (specify):
2.	Agreements are:
	☐ A modified version of the vendor agreement
	☐ Combined with the FMNP agreement
	☐ Unique to the authorization of farmers to transact CVVs/CVBs
3.	The following reflect the State agency's farmer/farmers' market agreement practices:
	☐ All farmers/farmers' markets have a written agreement with the State agency
	☐ A standard farmer/farmers' market agreement is used statewide
	 □ Agreements are subject to the State's procurement procedures □ Agreements/handbooks are subject to the State's Administrative Procedures Act
	☐ Farmers/farmers' markets are authorized/reauthorized under renewable agreements, provided no
	farmer/farmers' market violations occurred during the previous agreement period
	 All farmers/farmers' markets are provided at least 15 days advance written notice of the expiration of the agreement
	☐ All farmers/farmers' markets are provided a schedule of sanctions, either in or attached to the
	farmer/farmers' market agreement, or as a citation to State regulations ☐ Other (specify):
4.	Agreement provisions include:

	 □ Assure that the CVV/CVB is redeemed only for eligible fruits and vegetables as defined by the State agency □ Provide eligible fruits and vegetables at the current price or less than the current price charged to other customers □ Accept the CVVs/CVBs within the dates of their validity and submit CVVs for payment within the allowable time period established by the State agency □ Redeem the CVV/CVB in accordance with a procedure established by the State agency □ Accept training on CVV/CVB procedures and provide training to any employees with CVV/CVB responsibilities on such procedures □ Agree to be monitored for compliance with program requirements, including both overt and covert monitoring □ Be accountable for actions of employees in the provision of authorized foods and related activities □ Pay the State agency for any CVV/CVB transacted in violation of this agreement □ Offer WIC participants, parent or caretakers of child participants, or proxies the same courtesies as other customers □ Neither the State agency nor the farmer has an obligation to renew the agreement. □ Other (specify):
5.	The farmer/farmers markets agreement reflects that the farmer/farmers' market must not:
	□Collect sales tax on CVV/CVB purchases
	☐ Seek restitution from WIC participants, parent or caretakers of child participants, or proxies for CVVs/CVBs
	not paid or partially paid by the State agency
	☐ Issue cash change for purchases that are in an amount less than the value of the CVV/CVB☐ Other (specify):
	Please attach a copy of the Farmer/Farmers' Market Agreement or provide the appropriate Procedure Manual
	reference below.
	DITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation):and/or FMNP State Plar itation):
L.	Farmer/Farmers' Market Training
1.	Farmer/farmers' market training includes:
	☐ Eligible fruits and vegetables
	☐ Procedures for transacting and redeeming CVVs/CVBs
	☐ Agreement provisions
	☐ Sanctions and Appeals
	☐ Other (specify):
2.	Interactive farmer/farmers' market training (e.g., face-to-face, video conference, web cam) is conducted:
	 □ At or before initial authorization □ At least every three years following initial authorization □ Other (specify):
3.	Non-interactive farmer/farmers' market training (e.g., via hard copy mail, email, online) is conducted:
	☐ Annually following authorization☐ Changes in procedures☐ Other (specify):
4.	The State agency delegates training to:
	□ Local agency (specify):

	□ Contractor (specify):
	☐ Farmer representative (specify):
	☐ Other (specify):
5.	If the State agency delegates training, briefly describe the State agency's supervision of such training:
6.	The State agency produces a Farmer/farmers markets Training Handbook:
	□ Yes □ No
	If yes, provide the citation:
7.	The State agency provides online or web-based training:
	□ Yes □ No
	If yes, provide the link to the training or citation:
	ODITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation) and/or FMNP State Plan itation):
Μ.	. Farmer Monitoring
1.	Farmers/farmers' markets are included in the:
	☐ FMNP sample of farmers/farmers markets for monitoring ☐ WIC sample of vendors for monitoring
2.	Monitoring includes:
	☐ Covert methods, such as compliance buys ☐ Overt methods, such as routine monitoring
	DDITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation): and/or FMNP State Plan itation):
N.	Farmer/Farmers' Market Sanctions, Claims, and Appeals
1.	Farmer/farmers' market violations may result in; check all that apply: □ Disqualification
	☐ Denial of payment or demand for refund due to improperly redeemed CVVs/CVBs (Claims)
	☐ Prosecution under Federal, State, or local law regarding fraud or other illegal activity
	\square Monetary sanctions such as civil money penalties and fines
2.	Farmers/farmers' markets may administratively appeal:
	 □ Disqualification □ Denial of application □ Other sanction (specify):
3.	Farmers/farmers' markets may not administratively appeal:
	□ Expiration of an agreement□ Claims□ Other (specify):

Please attach and/or reference the location of the State agency's administrative review procedures.

ADDITIONAL DETAIL: Vendor Management Appendix and/or Procedure Manual (Citation) and/or FMNP State Plan (Citation):